



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAUQUIER COUNTY SEEKS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE IN MAPPING LOCAL HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS

BLACKSBURG, VA- Fauquier County is starting a broadband mapping campaign using the Accelerate Virginia speed test. Residents are asked to take a speed test to help identify areas in the county in need of broadband availability.

Fauquier County is the first county in the Northern Virginia area to partner with Accelerate Virginia and launch a local speed test campaign. The campaign's goal is to get 300 speed tests taken throughout the county. This data will help provide Fauquier County an accurate look at the county's broadband availability as well as any broadband dead zones.

To participate in this campaign, county residents, business owners, students, and others are asked to visit <http://acceleratevirginia.org> and take a two-minute speed test. Upon completion of the test users will see the results of their Internet connections, compared with the connection reports from residencies and businesses that surround that location. Users are also being asked to encourage their friends and family to do the same.

By participating in this campaign and identifying areas in need of broadband, residents will help Fauquier County improve economic development as well as educational opportunities. With increased telework availability, county residents will be able to maintain city jobs from their homes. New virtual businesses can start in the county and use telework instead of renting office space.

An additional benefit will be increased exposure to the Internet as a learning tool for all of the education sectors. Increased Internet availability will also aid in the training of Fauquier County employees.

The data collected from the speed tests will also be used to create a broadband market map for economic development. This map will provide entrepreneurs, businesses and people moving to and from Fauquier County with the information needed to see where Internet is offered. It will also allow Internet providers to find new markets.

Accelerate Virginia was launched in 2010 as an extension of the Virginia Tech eCorridors program and aims to measure the broadband availability of the entire state with help from local campaigns and counties, like Fauquier County. All of the data collected from the Accelerate Virginia campaign will be used to help build the statewide broadband map, which in turn will identify areas in need of improvement, and ultimately provide faster and more affordable high speed internet for all of Virginia.

For more information about Accelerate Virginia or to report a dead zone, please contact Jean Plymale, vplymale@vt.edu at (540) 231-2270.